

AWARDS

Chalet, Van Zelst get design prizes

Chalet in Wilmette has received a Grand Award from Professional Landcare Network for residential lawn care of an Italianate estate in Lake Forest. The firm designed the landscape on this property in 2001.

Lawn Care Manager Bill Leuenberger selected five types of bluegrass to seamlessly blend seeded areas with sodded portions of the formal gardens. For shady areas, he added fine fescues and other grasses better suited to low light conditions.

Chalet Lawn Care Department applied a penetrating agent to allow percolation of oxygen and nutrients into the soil. Seasonal applications of gypsum and semi-annual core aeration further helped reduce soil compaction and eliminate thatch.

The lawn care program includes fertilizer applications five times a year plus an annual application of a 7-percent iron product with a micronutrient package. The site's custom irrigation system is monitored twice weekly, and mowing heights are adjusted seasonally. An Integrated Pest Management program helps prevent unnecessary

pesticide applications, and fall overseeding with a bluegrass blend is used to fill in weak spots in high traffic areas. Visit www.chaletnursery.com or call (847) 688-0561.

Van Zelst, Inc. of Wadsworth, a design/build landscape firm, received a Silver Award from the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association in recognition of the outstanding grounds maintenance of a Glenview residence.

Van Zelst originally designed and installed the home's garden areas, walks and patio which involve care for many varieties of plant material integrated into a cohesive landscape palette.

Large shade trees create small microclimates within the overall landscape. Differing care is needed due to a more complex watering practice with monitoring of the irrigation system and disease and pest control for susceptible plantings. The expansive lawns enhanced with sweeping and densely planted beds require a detailed management program year-round. Weekly dead-heading and pruning of perennials, annuals and shrubs is vital for a consistently pleasing scene.



Meticulous care of this Glenview garden with its balanced mixture of perennials and annuals for shade and sun gleaned an award for VanZelst, Inc. — Photo by Linda Oyama Bryan